

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 ACDA-12 OMB-01

ABF-01 TRSE-00 /129 W

-----076461 020218Z /63

R 011440Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 381

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IS, LE, XF, UNSC

SUBJ: LOSSES TO UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. UNTSO MONTHLY REPORT TO UNNY ON UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WILL SPELL OUT IN DETAIL HARRASSMENTS TO UNMO'S AND HIJACKING AND THEFT OF UN VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT DURING FEBRUARY. ACCORDING TO UNTSO POLITICAL ADVISER PRIETO IN TALK WITH DPO MARCH 1, REPORT WILL LIST 14 VEHICLES HI-JACKED (12 TAKEN BY CHRISTIAN FORCES) AND 33 FORCED ENTRIES INTO OP'S WITH ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF THESE OCCURRING IN CHRISTIAN-HELD AREAS. WHEN DPO ASKED IF THESE STATISTICS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC INCLUDING FACT THAT IT WAS CHRISTIANS, NOT LEFTISTS, RESPONSIBLE FOR MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS, PRIETO SAID THAT THIS WAS FIRST TIME THAT REPORT INDICATED WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR INCIDENTS. USUAL PRACTICE IS FOR UNNY TO CIRCULATE UNTSO MONTHLY REPORT AS RECEIVED WITHOUT MODIFICATION AND HE EXPECTED UNNY TO CIRCULATE FEBRUARY REPORT.

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2. DESPITE RECENT RUMORS THAT HARRASSMENTS AND LOSSES MIGHT LEAD TO CUT-BACK OF UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, PRIETO THOUGHT THAT UN AND TROOP-CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES INTENDED TO MAINTAIN CURRENT LEVEL OF OPERATIONS. HE THOUGHT ONLY SWEDEN HAD MADE UNHAPPY NOISES RECENTLY ABOUT SITUATION. PRIETO CONFIRMED THAT UNTSO HAS CONTINUED TO COMPLAIN

TO ALL PARTIES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON INCLUDING GOL, GOI AND DE FACTO FORCES ABOUT INCIDENTS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT NO ONE EXPECTS SITUATION TO IMPROVE. HE CONFIDED THAT GENERAL SIILASVUO HAS REPORTED THIS TO NEW YORK AND GIVEN HIS OWN ASSESSMENT THAT INCIDENTS WILL CONTINUE. ACCORDING TO PRIETO, UNTSO CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT, AT LEAST, UNMO OPERATIONS SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE OF INHIBITING ISRAELI OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

3. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT PEACEKEEPING SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IS TO BE DISCUSSED IN NEW YORK IN SOME UN FORM EITHER MARCH 1 OR IN NEAR FUTURE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REPORT ON SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: MARR, IS, LE, XF, UNSC
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